

The following citation was read at a Special Convocation of the Benchers of The Law Society of Upper Canada on the 23rd day of January, 2015.

Treasurer, may I present to you and Convocation, The Honourable Karen M. Weiler, and request that you confer upon her the degree of Doctor of Laws, honoris causa.

She was called to the Bar in 1969, when law was still considered a non-traditional career choice for women. A real trailblazer never daunted by the challenges facing her, she joined Weiler, Weiler and Maloney in Thunder Bay and discovered she was the only woman practising law in Northwestern Ontario. After obtaining her LL.M., she served as senior policy counsel under The Honourable R. Roy McMurtry, the Attorney General. Her work led to a massive overhaul of family law in Ontario with the enactment of the Family Law Reform Act, the Children's Law Reform Act and the Succession Law Reform Act.

In 1980, at the age of 35, Justice Weiler was appointed to the former District Court. She is the youngest person ever to be appointed to the federal judiciary. Appointments to the High Court in 1989, and the Ontario Court of Appeal in 1992, soon followed. Through her desire to advance access to justice, Justice Weiler worked with Pro Bono Law Ontario to launch a volunteer program to assist unrepresented litigants. As well, she has worked with community organizations to educate children on racism and discrimination to foster equality in today's society.

The Honourable Karen M. Weiler is deserving of the highest honour this Society can bestow and I ask you to confer upon her the degree of Doctor of Laws, honoris causa.